



Archbishop MacDonald High School

Admissions Policy

Updated December 2025



Archbishop MacDonald Catholic High School Mission

Ecole Archbishop MacDonald High School is a compassionate Catholic community where we engage with challenging and rewarding programs while fostering diversity. We empower our students to be inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring while serving others in the name of Jesus Christ.

Archbishop MacDonald Catholic High School Vision:

Archbishop MacDonald High School provides a learning environment that is safe, productive and has the flexibility to support students' specific learning styles. The students will be engaged with active learning where their curiosity will be cultivated through encouraging inquiry, logical thinking, and critical reasoning. We prepare students for successful roles in an ever-changing society by challenging them to persevere and by instilling an appreciation for the intrinsic beauty of learning.

IB (International Baccalaureate) Mission

The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

To this end the organization works with schools, government, and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate, and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

Purpose of the Admissions Policy:

1. To ensure the school community is aware of conditions for admission into the International Baccalaureate Program offered at Archbishop MacDonald High School.
2. To offer opportunities for students to pursue academic excellence and access the benefits of an IB education through a Full Diploma Program or as a course candidate.
3. The IB Admissions Policy is developed in accordance with the school and division policies and is reviewed and amended by IB faculty and school administration annually.

Philosophy

Archbishop MacDonald High School offers specialized academic programs with a focus on academic excellence. All courses focus on preparing students for success in both Alberta and IB assessments as well as at the post-secondary level. The Enhanced Program integrates the IB Philosophy to encourage the holistic development of all students. The learner profile and the approaches to teaching and learning are used at all levels of instruction, so students develop a better understanding of curriculum objectives and skill development.

Rights & Responsibilities

Head of School:

- Provide opportunities for teachers, parents, and students to learn about the benefits of an IB education through professional development and information sessions
- Provide clear expectations and deadlines regarding the commitment and completion of IB courses
- Provide support services for students to help them successfully complete IB courses
- Provide opportunities for students to learn about post-secondary admission requirements
- Provide opportunities to celebrate IB candidates and alumni success stories to promote the IB Diploma Programme at the school

IB Diploma Coordinator & School Counsellors:

- Facilitate presentations for teachers, parents, and students to bring awareness to the benefits of an IB education.
- Ensure the school IB website resources and information are up to date
- Provide information and guidance to students and parents regarding course selection
- Be available to provide individual and group guidance in choosing pathways that meet individual student needs and support potential post-secondary pathways
- Provide opportunities for students to learn about post-secondary admission requirements and organize post-secondary visits and fairs.
- Support students in the successful completion of their IB courses
- Encourage and support all students to participate in the IB Diploma Programme

Students & Parents:

- Explore opportunities to learn about the requirements of an Alberta Diploma, an IB Diploma and post-secondary admission requirements before making course selections
- Explore the benefits of an IB education
- Reach out to the IB Coordinator with questions or concerns
- Learn about the requirements and expectations of an IB education to ensure deadlines are met
- Access student support services when needed, including access to peer tutoring, counselling, and accommodations

Policy Overview: IB Entrance Requirements & Programming:

1. All students who meet the entrance requirements at Archbishop MacDonald Catholic High School are registered in a common Grade 10 Enhanced Program. This program delivers an enriched Alberta Education curriculum with a focus on preparing students for success in both the IB Diploma Programme and success in the Alberta stream for Grades 11, 12 and post-secondary.
2. Students are strongly encouraged to pursue an academic schedule in their grade 10 year to ensure pathways to a Full IB Diploma are available. This includes taking a second language and at least one 20 level course (academic or non-academic).

3. Students may choose to pursue a Full IB Diploma (5 IB courses from Groups 1 to 5 and 1 IB course from Group 4 or 6, plus the core – Extended Essay, CAS, TOK) or enroll in up to 5 individual IB courses as a course candidate.
4. Students registered at Archbishop MacDonald High School are expected to take all core subjects at MAC. Student success in the completion of diploma requirements and at the post-secondary level is achieved through the robust academic programming and supportive community offered.
5. Students who have completed an accelerated program for math or science in Grade 9 and would like to enroll directly in a 20-level IB course are *recommended* to have a minimum of 85%. Students who do not have this grade are recommended to repeat the course to ensure key skills and concepts are mastered prior to advancing to IB at the 20-level.
6. Grade 10 students at Archbishop MacDonald High School who would like to enroll in a 20-level IB course are *recommended* to have a minimum of 80% and/or a teacher recommendation in the pre-requisite course to ensure key skills and concepts have been mastered. Academic success in an IB programme is less of an indicator of ability and potential than a student's ability to: be **Knowledgeable** about the world, natural **Inquirers**, deep **Thinkers**, **Communicators** in a variety of ways, **Caring** towards themselves and others, **Principled** in their actions, **Open-minded** to all, **Balanced** in their daily lives, **Risk-takers** in new learning situations and **Reflective**.
7. Grade 10 students are encouraged to complete the *Grade 10 IB Interest and Intent Form* posted on the school website prior to registering for IB courses. Students who complete the form to express interest in IB will be given one-on-one counselling in planning their schedules to ensure programming meets their needs.
8. Students who have completed 20 level IB courses are encouraged to complete these pathways. No pre-requisite grade required; please contact your teachers or the IB Coordinator for advice.
9. IB fees must be up to date to register in an IB course. Payment is required at registration (\$150 per year to a max fee of \$300).
10. Course changes will not be permitted due to limitations in course offerings after registration. Students will commit to completing their courses for one year.
11. IB Exam registrations that are added or retracted after September 1 may be subject to additional late fees per course based on the current IBO fee schedule. Students who do not complete the IB course requirements and assessments will not be awarded an IB grade and will be required to pay the associated withdraw fees based on the current IBO fee schedule.

References

Edmonton Catholic Separate School Division (2019). *Commitment to Inclusive Communities in Edmonton Catholic Schools*. Board Policy Handbook

Edmonton Catholic Separate School Division (2019). *Commitment to Inclusive Communities in Edmonton Catholic Schools*. Administrative Procedures Manual: Procedure 160.

Edmonton Catholic Separate School Division (2018). *Student Code of Conduct*. Administrative Procedures Manual: Procedure 351.

Edmonton Catholic Separate School Division (2019). *Code of Student Conduct*. Archbishop MacDonald.

International Baccalaureate Organization (2024). *Fees and billing information for IB World Schools 2025*.

International Baccalaureate Organization (2022). *IB Programme Standards and Practices*.